

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were examined in the outstanding final office action mailed on 05/30/2008 (hereafter "First Final Office Action"). Applicants note with appreciation that claims 5, 12 and 18 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter. The remaining claims 1-4 and 7-11 and 14-17 were rejected or objected to.

By virtue of this paper, the specification and claims 1, 6, 8, and 14 were sought to be amended and new claims 19-20 are sought to be added. The amendments and additions are believed not to introduce new matter and their entry is respectfully requested. The amendments and additions are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-20 are thus respectfully presented for reconsideration further in view of the below remarks.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the typographical errors in the Abstract. The abstract is sought to be amended to overcome the objection. Withdrawal of the objection with respect to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the specification noting that several headers are not appropriately indented. The specification is sought be amended to separate the headers from the corresponding body. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is also thanked for the detailed examination.

Claim Objections

Claim 6 has been objected to, noting that "said finding" is to be replaced by "said searching". The claim is sought to be amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4, 7-11 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leonard *et al* U.S. Patent No. 3,826,904 (hereinafter Leonard) in view of Kwak U.S. Patent No. 6,866,830 (hereinafter Kwak).

Without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's contentions, it is asserted that the presented claims are allowable over the art of record.

For example, the Examiner appears to equate the claimed first component (which may
5 not be available at the start of blending) to the alkaline solution of Kwak (see Page 6, lines 10-11 of the First Final Office Action).

Currently amended claim 1 recites two scenarios – (1) using the first component from the start of blending if it is available; and (2) computing an intermediate blend point and
10 performing blending based on the intermediate blend point if the first component is not available at the start of blending.

It is believed that Kwak does not contemplate the use of the alkaline solution even if it were available at the start of blending.

At least for such a reason, currently amended claim 1 is allowable over the art of record.

Claims 2-7 and 19 depend from claim 1 and are thus allowable at least for the reasons
20 noted above with respect to claim 1.

Currently amended independent claim 8 is allowable over the art of record at least in reciting a second set of components which enhance the same properties as the unavailable component. These second set of components are used in additional quantities to compensate
25 for the unavailable component up to the intermediate blend point.

The disclosure associated with the alkaline solution of Kwak is believed not to teach or reasonably suggest such a feature.

At least for such a reason, currently amended independent claim 8 is allowable over
30 the art of record. Claims 9-13 and 20 depend from claim 8 and are allowable at least for the reasons noted above with respect to claim 8. The remaining claims presented for

consideration are also allowable over the art of record at least for one or more of the reasons noted above.

Conclusion

Thus, all the objections and rejections are believed to be overcome and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at 707.356.4172 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

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Respectfully submitted,
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